

# I. COUNTY DESCRIPTION

## A. County Profile

Blount County, one of the oldest counties in Tennessee, was the tenth created when a part of Knox County was separated by the Territorial Legislature in 1795. The new county was named in honor of William Blount, Governor of the Territory of the United States, “South of the River Ohio”, and the founder of the City of Knoxville. The County is 584 square miles and is bordered on the east by the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and on the west by the great chain of lakes created by the Tennessee Valley Authority. The Little River flows out of the Great Smokies winding its way through the County and pours into the Tennessee Valley lakes. The Little Tennessee River parallels the southern border.

Maryville, the county seat, was founded in 1790 and is the Twin City of Alcoa, formerly known as North Maryville. Maryville was named in honor of Mary (Grainger) Blount, wife of Governor William Blount. Alcoa was incorporated in 1919 and was named for the founder of the Aluminum Company of America. Cades Cove, located near Townsend, is a historic district within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Cades Cove is a look into the past with preserved homes, churches, and a working mill, which highlight the 11-mile loop road-touring route. Wildlife abounds around the cove with sightings of deer, foxes, wild turkeys, coyotes, woodchucks, raccoons, bears, and red wolves. Cades Cove was settled in 1819 and farmed until the Park formed in the 1930s and receives approximately 2 million visitors each year.

The first primary industrial trade for settlers in Blount County was lumbering. Today, many varied occupational opportunities have replaced lumbering. Over 100 manufacturing plants can be found in Blount County. The principal employers of the county are the Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA), which established its Tennessee operations in 1912, and Nippondenso (Denso).

## *Blount County Community Profile*

### *Location*

Region: East Tennessee  
Square Miles: 584  
Distance from Knoxville: 16 miles

### *Population (1996 EST.)*

County: 99,010  
Male: 47,189  
Female: 51,821  
Minority: 4.3%

### *Cities/Towns*

Alcoa  
Friendsville  
Maryville  
Rockford  
Townsend

### *Education*

Alcoa City Schools  
Maryville City Schools  
Blount County Schools  
3 Private Schools  
Maryville College  
Pellissippi State Community College

### *Natural Resources*

Minerals: Marble, Crushed Stone, & Clay  
Timber: Hardwood & Pine

### *Climate*

Annual Average Temperature: 59°  
Annual Average Precipitation: 49"  
Elevation: 980' above Sea Level